

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01

SP-02 ICA-11 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-10 IO-13 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07

TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 ARA-10 EUR-12 /120 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3636

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, XY, GH

SUBJECT: ECOWAS SUMMIT MEETING

REFS: (A) ACCRA 3155, (B) STATE 105766

1. FOLLOWING RUN-DOWN ON GHANAIAN PARTICIPATION IN SUMMIT MEETING AND GOG ATTITUDE TOWARD MAJOR DECISIONS TAKEN WAS PROVIDED E/C COUNSELOR MAY 11 BY MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING (MEP) OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR ECOWAS, E. QUIST, PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL OFFICER, WHO WAS JUNIOR MEMBER OF GHANAIAN DELEGATION. MORE SENOIR MEP OFFICIAL CONCERNED, J.D. WILMOT, HAS BEEN OUT OF GHANA.

2. FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS. GHANA HAS LONG TAKEN A VERY LIBERAL STAND ON THIS ISSUE. GOG URGED AGAINST REQUIRING VISAS, OR EVEN HEALTH CERTIFICATES. GHANA HAD STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE NOW-DISCARDED DRAFT BILATERAL AGREEMENT AND CURRENTLY FAVORS THE MULTILATERAL ARRANGEMENT TO BE APPROVED NEXT YEAR.

3. PROTOCOL ON NON-AGGRESSION. THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC MECHANISM IN THE PROTOCOL FOR RESOLVING DISPUTES,
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MISS QUIST SAID, BUT AD HOC GROUPS WOULD BE CONVENED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. SHE CITED PRECEDENT OF THREE HEADS OF STATES' RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN REPUBLIC OF GUINEA AND OVIRY COAST/SENEGAL. SHE SAID MECHANISM FOR RESOLVING DISPUTES WOULD VARY ON CASE BY CASE BASIS AND CITED BY WAY OF ILLUSTRATION THE POSSIBLE USE OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF ECOWAS MEMBERS NOT PARTY

TO DISPUTE CONCERNED.

4. PROCEDURE FOR DISSEMINATING DECISIONS. QUIST BELIEVED THIS WOULD TAKE FORM OF OFFICIAL ECOWAS CAZETTE. SHE DID NOT THINK NON-AGGRESSION PROTOCOL WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN ANY SUCH GAZETTE WITHOUT SPECIFIC DECISION BY HEADS OF STATE TO DO SO (E.G., AT 1979 SUMMIT MEETING).

5. CUSTOMS TARIFF CONSOLIDATION. ONE-YEAR POSTPONEMENT OF EFFECTIVE DATE DID NOT IMPLY WEAKENING OF MEMBERS' RESOLVE, BUT MERELY FACT THAT RELEVANT STUDIES BY ECA AND GATT/UNCTAD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER WERE STILL UNDERWAY.

6. SECRETARIAT/FUND DIFFERENCES RESOLVED. QUIST STATED THAT GHANA HAD PLAYED "IMPORTANT ROLE" IN RESOLVING OUATTARA/HORTON CONFLICT, BUT DECLINED TO GO INTO DETAILS.

7. THERE WAS SOME PRESS COVERAGE OF SUMMIT MEETING IN ACCRA DALIES, AND ONE EDITORIAL SUPPORTING ECOWAS BUT SOMEWHAT VAGUELY NOTING THAT THERE ARE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BETWEEN THE ECOWAS TRADE AND OTHER GOALS AND THOSE OF WEST AFRICAN RELATIONS WITH THE ACP/EEC AND THE OAU.

8. GHANA DELEGATION INCLUDED DR. ROBERT GARDINER,
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RECENTLY RETIRED COMMISSIONER FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING (ACCRA 3527). HE HAS BEEN AWAY FROM ACCRA, BUT WE MAY EVENTUALLY OBTAIN ADDITIONAL COMMENT FROM HIM.

9. COMMENT: GHANA'S COMMITMENT TO ECOWAS REMAINS STRONG, BUT SUCH LONG-TERM FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES ARE REMOTE FROM HEAD OF STATE'S CURRENT CONCERNS WHICH CENTER ON DIFFICULT POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SITUATION AT HOME.
SMITH

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